

January 20, 2005

MPO Chairman, c/o
MPO Executive Director
Address

PDC Chairman, c/o
PDC Executive Director
Address

Dear MPO Chairman/PDC Chairman:

As you may be aware, the 2004 General Assembly provided in its budget, four million dollars in state funds to VDOT for transportation planning work. VDOT and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation have critical rail and public transportation planning efforts to be funded from this source. The majority of the remaining funds, approximately 1.6 million will be used for a competitive State Transportation Planning grant program to be awarded in the spring.

It is my pleasure to introduce this pilot program and invite you, the state's MPOS and PDCs to participate in the program.

For this, the first year of the State Transportation planning Grant Pilot, four categories of projects will be considered:

- Planning for special transportation needs of unique sectors of the community
- Local transportation planning for alternative modes
- Linking transportation and land use, and
- Prioritizations of local or regional transportation plan recommendations.

Applications and the action plan for accomplishing each study should include the identification of the implementation plan to explain how the study results will be put to use.

The grant funds will be administered similar to the Rural Transportation Planning Grant Program, through VDOT's Transportation and Mobility Planning Division. While this is state money, and does not require a local, a local contribution is encouraged.

You and your representative are invited to attend a videoconference to further discuss the pilot grant program. The videoconference will be held on January 26, 2005 from 9:30-11:30AM at each of the VDOT District Offices. Additionally, included in this mailing is an application for your use, an example of the scoring criteria, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions.

I encourage you to explore this opportunity to enhance and expand your transportation planning capabilities through this grant program. For more information on this program, or to obtain additional applications, please contact your local District Transportation Planner. I look forward to working with you in this new opportunity. We hope to see you on January 26th.

Sincerely,

Marsha Fiol
State Transportation Planner